

Safe today, alive tomorrow



## Community Events

### Power outage

A one-hour power outage is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. in Chavez-West Tuesday to replace parts that caused a recent unscheduled outage.

For more information, call 784-2001.

### Munitions closure

The 27th Equipment Maintenance Squadron is closed until Aug. 4 for munitions inventory. Only emergency requests will be honored.

For more information, call 784-4200 or 784-4201.

### Loading competition

Events for the first quarter Proud Falcon loading competition will begin at 7 a.m. on Monday at Hangar 133. Cannon personnel are invited.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Todd Kenny at 784-4198.

### Vacation Bible school

Vacation Bible school is 9 a.m. to noon Monday through August 4 at the base chapel. Buses will pick up children who need transportation at Chavez West, Clovis 801, Portales 801 and on base.

To volunteer or for more information, contact the base chapel at 784-2507.

### Resume basics

Learn the fundamentals of writing resumes and cover letters at a Resume Basics class 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the Family Support Center.

For more information or to register, call the FSC at 784-4228.

*More Community Events on Page 9*

# MACH METER

Vol. 51, No. 29

Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

July 28, 2006



PHOTO BY AIRMAN FIRST CLASS HEATHER SALAZAR

## AFSOC leaders tour Cannon, community

Master Sgt. Diane Hansen, 27th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, explains F-16 landing gear refurbishment procedures to Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, during his visit last week. For more photos on the AFSOC visit and General Wooley's observations about the base and community, see page 2.

## Include safety in your summertime fun plans

By Master Sgt. Patrick Mehmert  
27th Fighter Wing  
Ground Safety superintendent

Good old summertime means fun at the lake, camping, and swimming. At Cannon, this often means spending a bit of time behind the wheel.

There aren't many lakes or mountains in our immediate area, so we often hit the wide-open New Mexico highways in search of family fun. Unfortunately, along the way the vehicle is often filled with more than a few distractions for the driver.

This scenario may sound familiar: Dad is cruising down the highway with the family in the back of the shiny-new mini-van with the plush light khaki seats, power everything and top of the line sound system. Dad doesn't have a care in the world other than the open road. Then the silence is broken by the familiar sound of soda tops popping, potato chip bags ripping open and the youngest crying

because the chocolate candy-bar has melted. Now the only thing running through Dad's mind is little fingers rubbing melted chocolate all over the plush khaki seats and that he should have ordered the charcoal gray interior.

Yes, driving hazards come in many shapes and forms, especially during day trips in New Mexico. Our senses may be a little dull after three hours behind the wheel, a full day of cave exploration with the kids, and the long, lonely trip back home when all is finally quiet in the back of the van.

Keep the following in mind when preparing your weekend excursions.

- Have a safe driving plan;
- Take turns behind the wheel;
- Stop for breaks in a safe location; and
- Keep the kids occupied with games or movies and most importantly ensure everyone buckles up.

The 27 FW has had a pretty good

"101 Critical Days of Summer" so far, but we're only halfway through the season. Fatalities typically spike Air Force wide as people try to cram too much fun into the last few weeks.

The 27th Fighter Wing has had seven mishaps this summer that caused lost workday injuries. Fortunately, these Airmen are back at work and will fully recover from their injuries. Two of the mishaps involved highway crashes and of course, these are the scary ones. Often members never have the chance to return to duty when involved in highway crashes.

Airmen here are exposed to highway dangers a little more than other locations due to the remoteness of the area and the amount of wonderful sights to see in New Mexico.

The 27th Fighter Wing Safety Office encourages everyone to enjoy the rest of the summer, have a safe plan, and remember to, "Work Hard and Play Smart."





## NEWS

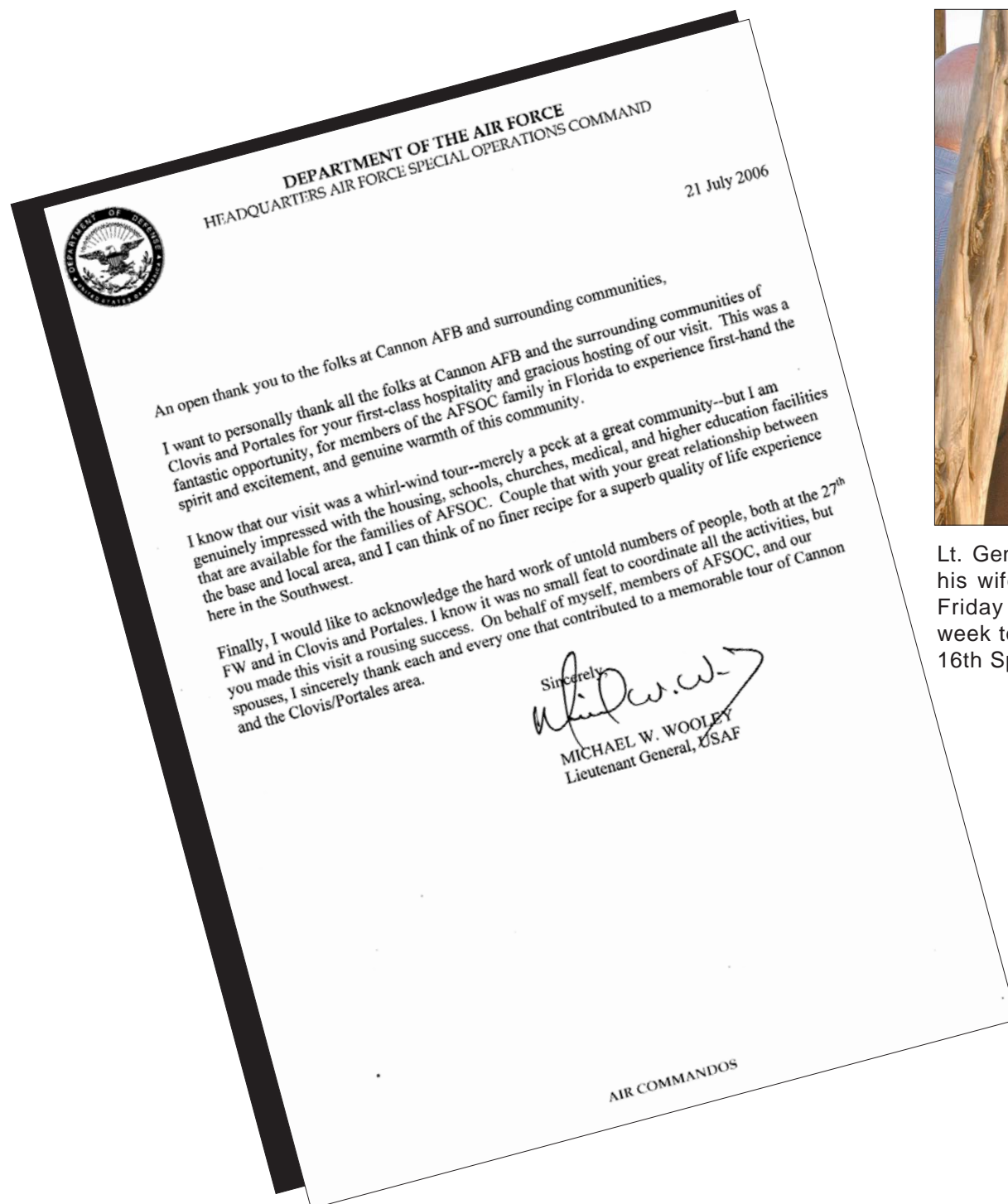


PHOTO BY AIRMAN FIRST CLASS HEATHER SALAZAR

Lt. Gen. Michael Wooley, Air Force Special Operations commander, and his wife Kathy enjoy a chuckwagon breakfast hosted by the community Friday morning. An AFSOC team visited Cannon and the community last week to learn more about the area that will become the new home for the 16th Special Operations Wing in October, 2007.



Col. Scott West, 27th Fighter Wing commander, and Col. Norm Brozenick, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, tour the local community during an Air Force Special Operations Command visit last week. The 16th SOW will be reflagged as the 1st SOW in Oct. 2007.

## Cannon's new mission discussed with Congress

By Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON – “We’re helping those who cannot stand on their own against tyranny,” Lt. Gen. Michael W. Wooley told a roomful of people July 18 on Capitol Hill.

The commander of Air Force Special Operations Command was in Washington to inform members of Congress, staffers, media representatives and guests about the mission his Airmen perform.

Although it’s the smallest of the Air Force’s nine major commands, he

said his 13,000 Airmen are some of America’s finest and are engaged in operations all over the world.

The general spoke about past and current operations, but was especially excited to discuss the future of his command. General Wooley also spoke about AFSOC facility realignments as Cannon Air Force Base transitions to become home to the 16th Special Operations Wing.

In addition, the 1st SOW will be reactivated at Hurlburt Field, Fla., which is also home to AFSOC headquarters.

One of the general’s key messages

he imparted to the crowd was that AFSOC is a Total Force operation.

“Unless you know them personally, you wouldn’t be able to distinguish whether an Airman is active duty, a reservist or guardsman,” General Wooley said. “Every one of them is a dedicated professional.”

“The AFSOC we have today is different than the AFSOC we had a year ago,” General Wooley said. “And a year from now, it will be even more different as we make progress. We’re integrating new technology with what we have today to make the mission happen.”

The general witnessed part of that future firsthand when he recently flew the first operational CV-22 Osprey from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., to Kirtland AFB, N.M. The tilt-rotor aircraft is expected to be a major part of AFSOC missions within the next few years, he said.

“We have a high (operations tempo) but we understand why we’re in this battle,” General Wooley said. “Ever since 9-11, your air commandos are focused. We stay engaged with the enemy on their turf so we’re not engaging them on our turf.”





## NEWS

# 8,000 officers targeted for next force shaping

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force officials recently announced new force-shaping initiatives to be used to meet the required 2007 fiscal year end strength numbers.

The new initiatives are designed to bring the officer numbers down as the enlisted end-strength numbers are on target for 2007. Officials said more than 8,000 officers must separate either through normal attrition, retirement or force shaping measures to achieve the required balance in force.

"It's important to keep in mind what force shaping is all about; the present and future state of the Air Force," Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Personnel. "We have to balance our [force] for now and the coming years to have the kind of force we need to win the long war we are in now and be prepared for whatever comes next."

The Air Force will look for volunteers but will also initiate involuntary shaping programs

to achieve a balanced force. The force-shaping program maximizes the Air Force's voluntary separation authority and also allows implementation for involuntary shaping programs as required.

The Air Force starts the 2007 force-shaping program with three tools to lower the number of active duty officers. These three initiatives are Voluntary Separation Pay (VSP), Selective Early Retirement Board (SERB), and a fiscal 2007 Force Shaping Board (FSB). Under U.S. Code Title 10, the Secretary of the Air Force has authority to use these force-shaping tools.

The VSP incentive will be offered to Line of the Air Force officers (including Judge Advocates), and Chaplains with more than six and no more than exactly 12 years of service to encourage their separation, General Brady said.

The Air Force needs approximately 3,200 officers meeting these criteria to separate. Eligible officers may begin applying for VSP on Sunday. Dates of separation must take effect between Oct. 1 and Sep.

29, 2007. Applications for VSP will not be accepted after Jan. 31.

Officers approved for VSP will enter into a written agreement to serve in the Individual Ready Reserve for three years following the separation. Officers who have an existing military service obligation at the time of their separation will fulfill it in the IRR along with the additional three-year commitment. Officers meeting the above time-in-service criteria may contact their Military Personnel Flight for more details.

"We are offering the qualified VSP officers twice the compensation of what they would receive for an involuntary separation," General Brady said.

The Air Force seeks to retire 313 line-officer lieutenant colonels who have been twice deferred for promotion or colonels with four years time in grade who are not general selects. Officers who have a voluntary retirement date or a mandatory retirement date for length of service will not be considered.

The Air Force must plan for a SERB for 2007 to meet this

shaping objective.

"The officers who fit this category have already been notified," he said. "If we get enough volunteers for retirement, we will not hold the SERB."

A SERB has been scheduled for Jan. 8-19, 2007. More detailed information about the SERB will be released in September.

The Air Force will also hold a fiscal year 2007 FSB. This board will evaluate officers who have not completed more than five years commissioned service. The board will consider officers in selected, overage career fields in the 2003, and 2004-year groups. However, for the 2003-year group, the board will only consider those career fields that were excluded from consideration from the fiscal 2006 FSB.

The Air Force projects more than 900 losses as a result of the 2007 FSB, which is scheduled for March 12-23.

Another tool the Air Force uses to balance the force is recruitment.

"In Force Shaping, we will lose some very talented people.

But the reduction in size is also about losing manpower authorizations to help get the right number of people with dynamic skill sets," General Brady said. "We will be bringing in about 3,000 less enlisted and 500 less officers this year through accessions."

By recruiting less into the Air Force, this eases the burden of having to get rid of quality individuals, he said.

"One thing we don't want people to lose sight of is we do not like the fact that we're going to lose these people," General Brady said. "These are talented young folks with a great work ethic and the kind of people we feel will land on their feet and do well."

This new Force Shaping message supercedes prior messages. Other Force Shaping programs such as "Blue to Green," Palace Chase, Career Job Reservation (for enlisted) and Enlisted Retraining Program are still in effect.

For more information on the force shaping initiatives visit the AFPC web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/forceshaping/shape.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/forceshaping/shape.htm).

## Killing unnecessary kilowatts a quality of life issue

By Janet-Taylor Birkey  
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

One of the "bennies" of living in base housing is that Airmen don't see utility bills in their mailbox or deduct them from their bank accounts. So why should Airmen care what it costs to cool, heat and light their homes? Why should Cannon's annual \$6.2 million utility bill even faze them?

Simply put, better housing, better dorms and better facilities.

"That bill takes away from operating funds," said Kenneth Cable, 27th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy command operations flight. Utility bills are "must pays," Mr. Cable said, and turning off that unnecessary light ensures that the necessities for completing the wing mission are available when needed.

Effects of high utility bills are seen

across the board, said Capt. Jason Moschella, 27th CES. When funds must be diverted to pay bills that are not budgeted in entirety, revamping and remodeling facilities and dorms, housing and computers may be put on hold.

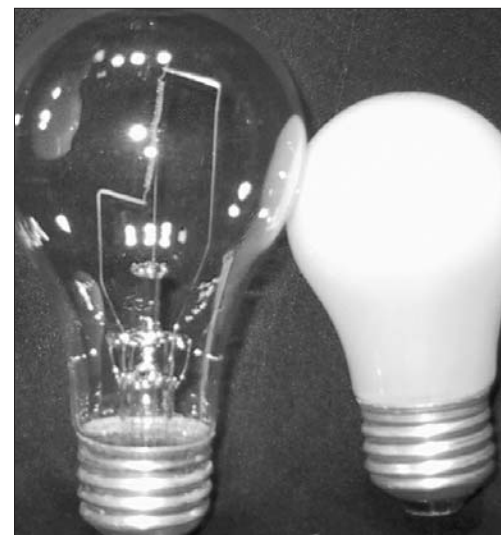
As an Air Combat Command (ACC) mandate to take steps to conserve electricity, Cannon's civil engineer squadron is working toward that goal and in the process is saving money. By implementing smart electronics and doing many of their own repairs, thousands of dollars have been saved, said Robert Shobe, an energy management control systems technician with the 27 CES.

"The fact that we have to pay this bill is going to take away from other programs at the major command level. We'll get less construction money for quality of life projects," said Captain Moshella.

If funds are diverted to pay utility bills, there are fewer funds available to revitalize and upgrade recreational facilities such as swimming pools and putting computers in eating areas — all quality of life issues for Airmen and their families, said Dave Proctor, also an Energy Management Control Systems technician with the 27 CES.

To help meet the ACC mandates, ideas will be sought from Cannon residents with initiatives beginning at the squadron level and then examined by group commanders.

One of the biggest keys to practicing good stewardship is to "use energy in the home and in the work place like you're paying for it," Captain Moshella said. He said this involves a mindset change to things like setting thermostats to 75 in the summer and 68 in the winter, turning out lights when not in the room and opening or closing



COURTESY PHOTO

Cannon's 27th Civil Engineer Squadron will be seeking input from the community on ways to reduce the base's annual \$6.2 million utility bill

windows instead of using electricity to heat and cool.



## COMMENTARY

# Mentoring a fundamental responsibility for all Airmen

By Lt. Col. J. D. Bailey, II  
27th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron commander

What is mentoring? It seems to have different meanings to different people. Some consider it a form of counseling, communicating or learning by example from someone usually senior to you. Others would simply call it leadership. But, whatever you choose to call it, it can certainly be beneficial to the men and women of any organization. However, there seems to be some mystery surrounding mentorship. Maybe that's due to its different meanings; therefore, people are unclear about this proven approach and valuable tool for leaders.

To clear up some of the fog about mentoring, let's define it further. Some people would say mentoring is the presence of caring individuals who provide support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples to help others succeed. Mentoring can mean the difference between success and failure. Therefore, a mentor is a person of greater knowledge or wisdom who shares his or her experience to help develop the abilities of those junior to them, also called protégés. Mentoring helps prepare Airmen and civilians for increased responsibilities by encouraging job competency, military education, professional development, higher education and serving the needs of the Air Force and our nation. Mentoring promotes communication, and personal and professional development.

Now that we understand what mentoring is, just

whose responsibility is it to mentor? Everyone! Mentors relate personal and professional experiences to protégés. Generally, mentors fill four roles: adviser, coach, facilitator and advocate. As an adviser, the mentor should encourage two-way communication and feedback, and assist their protégé with career and performance goals. As a coach, the mentor clarifies developmental needs, recommends training opportunities and teaches skills and behaviors. In facilitating, the mentor should assist the protégé in establishing a network of professional contacts and help them identify resources for problem solving and career progression. As an advocate, the mentor could represent the protégé's concern to higher management levels concerning specific issues, arrange for the protégé to participate in high visibility projects and serve as a role model.

Mentors are not expected to have all the answers. Sometimes just listening attentively is all people need. But, mentoring can mean the difference between success and failure. It is a fundamental responsibility of all Air Force members. It helps protégés reach their full potential, thereby enhancing the overall professionalism of the Air Force. Additionally, when an interest is shown in others, the Air Force is able to retain its most valuable asset — people.

Perhaps the mentorship message is best relayed in the following poem written by one of my mentors, Col. Penny Bailey, 84th Combat Sustainment Wing, vice commander:

## The Difference

By Col. Penny Bailey

*There were two Airmen who didn't know what to do  
They came into the Air Force and were proud to wear  
the blue.*

*Quickly they realized they didn't know it all  
And soon they must learn or they would fall.*

*But who was to teach them how to go?*

*Where were they to go in order to grow?*

*Around them they looked and what did they see?*

*One found a mentor, the other one was left himself to  
be.*

*The one with the mentor seized the day*

*He learned quickly and found experience does pay*

*The protégé listened and the mentor taught him a lot*

*And through his successes he never forgot*

*The second who had to go it alone*

*Did his best but felt forlorn.*

*He did what he could and learned as he went*

*But in the end he was totally spent.*

*Now the protégé is a mentor, too*

*His successes and lessons are not few*

*He shares what he knows and learns from the young*

*And praises for his mentor are sung.*

*So now the Air Force has only one wearing the blue*

*But it should have been two*

*With experiences and happiness in their heart*

*Because someone cared about them from the start.*

# Locking your keys in the car can be a positive experience

By Greg Allen  
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An occasional memory lapse can be a good thing.

That "occasional memory lapse" happened to my wife Suzanne last week, but it reinforced the good feelings she and I both have about living here.

Suzanne had gone to the library downtown to return some books and discovered she

had locked her keys in the car. She knew that I might be at the Clovis News Journal that day, putting the final touches on the Mach Meter. She called and asked that I be paged. I wasn't there, but a couple of people at the Journal heard the call and showed up to unlock her car. She said it took all of about 15 minutes from the time she realized the keys were locked inside to getting back

into her car and heading home.

When she told me the story later that evening, I remarked, "You know, it would have cost you fifty bucks and taken an hour at a lot of other places we've lived."

That incident reinforced our positive thoughts about moving here. You see, we weren't assigned to come here, we wanted to move here. We had grown tired of the Alaskan

cold which seemed to permeate into its populace as well. It was frigid there in more ways than one. I rarely received a response to my "hi" that was extended to a stranger while crossing a street.

To be sure, we were both taken aback by the stunning flatness of eastern New Mexico when we arrived. And the wind can definitely give your hair a new look. But as time has gone

by, the land seems to be less flat, because the sky seems to be so large. And the wind keeps the skies blue, rather than the smog brown of so many large cities.

When I cross the street now, my "hi" is met with a smile and a, "How ya' doin'?" response. It may not seem like much to some, but to me it makes me mentally respond, "It's good to be here."

## MACH METER

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News articles, local notes and other items for the *MACH METER* should be brought to the 27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, 110 E Sextant Ave. Suite 1099, or e-mailed to the Mach Meter at

27fwmachmeter@cannon.af.mil.

All submissions will be considered for publication based on news value and timeliness.

Every article and photograph will be edited for accuracy, clarity and brevity, conformance with the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual and with Air Force Instruction 35-101. Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the Public Affairs office at 784-4131.

If you have a suggestion you would like to make, or a kudo you'd like to give, call the **ACTION LINE at 784-2722** — If you have a problem you need resolved, call the responsible agency first so they can provide better service to everyone promptly.

**Deadline for submitting articles is noon Thursday the week prior to publication. Deadline for free classified advertisements is noon the Tuesday prior to publication.**

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# Reservists now offered Tricare Reserve Select

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims

*Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs*

DENVER – Tricare Reserve Select, the premium-based health coverage plan for eligible Selected Reserve and participating Individual Ready Reserve members, has been enhanced by offering three tiers of coverage.

Tier 1 certification started June 1 and is primarily for reservists who have served in support of a contingency. Now the Air Reserve Personnel Center is taking applications for Tiers 2 and 3. These applications must be postmarked by Sept. 25 for coverage effective Oct. 1. Any applications postmarked from Sept. 26 to Nov. 25 will receive coverage effective Jan. 1.

To qualify for Tier 2 coverage individuals must:

- Be a member of the Selected Reserve who is eligible to receive unemployment compensation under state law for which TRS Tier 2 coverage is provided;
- Be a member who is in the Selected Reserve and is not eligible for an employer-sponsored health plan or the employer does not offer a health insurance plan;
- Enter into a service agreement to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve for the period of TRS Tier 2 coverage;
- Be a member of the Selected Reserve and be self-employed when self-employment is the primary source of annual income, as reported to the Internal Revenue Service; or,
- Be an IRR member serving in the Selected Reserve by the end of the one-year period given to find a position.

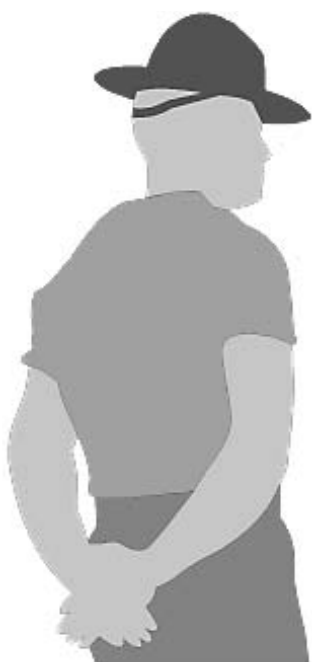
Members must pay 50 percent of the cost of the premiums for Tier 2.

To qualify for Tier 3 coverage individuals must:

- Not qualify for Tier 1 or Tier 2 coverage; or,
- Enter into a service agreement to serve continuously in the Selected Reserve for the period of TRS Tier 3 coverage.
- Be an IRR member serving in the Selected Reserve by the end of the one-year period given to find a position.

Members must pay 85 percent of the cost of the premiums for Tier 3.

These are basic eligibility criteria. Members who think they are eligible for Tier 2 or Tier 3 coverage can go to the Guard/Reserve Portal at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal) and complete the DD Form 2895, "Agreement to Serve in the Selected Reserve for TRICARE Reserve Select." Once signed, it should be signed by the commander. The ARPC Contact Center must be contacted at (800)-525-0102 to execute the agreement.



## Sgt. Afi's 36-2903 Tip of the Week

**Mustaches will not extend downward beyond the upper lip or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from the corner of the mouth. This does not apply to Airmen with shaving waivers.**



## FEATURE

# Medical team transports newborn from Puerto Rico

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine  
*Air Force Print News*

SAN ANTONIO – Seth and Stephanie Parker held each other's hands and waited. As the plane touched down at 12:05 a.m. July 22 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, they smiled at each other and looked at their son.

Four-day-old Stuart lay across from his parents on a medical cart surrounded by doctors, nurses and medical technicians. He was the newest patient for the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, or ECMO, team that was double- and triple-checking everything to ensure he was ready for the next leg of his journey.

Shortly after his birth, doctors told the Parkers that moving Stuart from the third floor of the Hospital Auxilio Mutuo in San Juan, Puerto Rico, could be fatal. But now here he was – being loaded off a C-17 Globemaster III onto an ambulance headed for Wilford Hall Medical Center.

One hundred and six hours and 19 minutes earlier, Stuart Scott Parker was born. He was 20.5 inches long and weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

Everything had gone perfectly. It was a "perfect" pregnancy – no problems at all. It was a "perfect" cesarean delivery. Stuart had even received a 9.9 out of 10 on his Apgar score, the quantitative rating test used to measure the vital signs of a newborn.

Holding his crying son for a few brief moments, he handed Stuart back to the nurses who began their usual newborn care. Stephanie, still recovering from the delivery, wasn't able to hold him yet.

About two hours later, the Parkers received the news that every family dreads after the birth of a child -- there was a serious problem.

"We were all just in shock," Mrs. Parker said. "It was all such a surprise, even to my doctor."

At first the doctors thought Stuart had pneumonia. He was moved to the neonatal intensive care unit for observation. Later that evening, the Parkers learned that Stuart's lungs were not working properly. The oxygen levels on his blood had "crashed" several times, dropping to dangerously low levels.

The baby was moved to the Hospital Auxilio Mutuo, another local hospital. There he received what the doctors called a "miracle gas" treatment. This nitrous oxide gas system stimulates the lungs to help the patient breathe on their own.

"I left that night with a great feeling," Lieutenant Parker said. "I told my wife he was showing great signs of improvement -- it looked like it was working."

But the next morning, Lieutenant Parker got an urgent call to sign the paperwork for a blood transfusion. It was then that he discovered his son had battled through a roller coaster night. His oxygen levels plunged dramatically. Stuart had fought for nearly two hours to restore them – only to crash again 20 to 30 minutes later.

After signing all the paperwork and not being allowed to see his son, the lieutenant drove to the hospital his wife was in, about five minutes away.

As he was coming up to see her, Stephanie was getting out of the shower. The phone rang. It was around 11 a.m. and Stuart was now 21 hours old.

The voice on the other end delivered the news -- the Parkers needed to come to the hospital right now to say goodbye – their son was going to die.

"It was ultimate shock," Stephanie said.

The medical team explained how he had crashed repeatedly that morning and they thought his internal organs would shut down.

Now the family grasped for any information it could. How could they solve this? How could they make it better?

Stuart's hospital, while one of the best facilities in Puerto



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. SCOTT REED

Capt. Karen Long and James Bailey monitor the vital signs and blood flow of 3-day-old Stuart Parker aboard a C-17 Globemaster III on July 21. They transported Stuart to San Antonio for more advanced care. Captain Long is a neonatal intensive care nurse and Captain Bailey is a pediatric intensive care nurse assigned to the Wilford Hall Medical Center.

Rico, couldn't provide him with the care he needed. The doctor said the next step for Stuart would be ECMO.

The ECMO machine provides partial heart-lung bypass to infants and children suffering from severe cardiopulmonary failure. It is made to do the work of the heart and lungs – to oxygenate the blood.

Since it was created in 1985, Wilford Hall's ECMO team has treated 172 patients; 63 required transport on the ECMO system. According to Wilford Hall officials, less than 20 percent of patients, who need it, would survive without ECMO treatment.

Since there are no ECMO machines in Puerto Rico, one of the doctor's colleagues suggested the Wilford Hall Medical Center's ECMO team.

Among all ECMO teams around the globe, the Wilford Hall team is unique.

After evaluating Stuart's condition over the phone and determining he was a good candidate, the emergency response Airmen answered one of the Parkers' prayers.

They would arrive within

the next 24 hours.

The team arrived in a C-17 Globemaster III at 3:07 a.m. on July 21. Stuart was now 85 hours and 21 minutes old.

Wilford Hall ECMO experts began evaluating the young patient and consulting with the Parkers.

"I knew they were coming but I didn't expect so many of them," said Lorena Malarat, a respiratory therapist at the Hospital Auxilio Mutuo.

After a few hours, Stuart's condition led the doctors to determine that use of the ECMO unit was best. At 3:40 p.m., Lt. Col. (Dr.) Christopher Coppola, an ECMO surgeon, made the first incision in preparation for transferring Stuart to the mechanical ventilator.

After he was stabilized and moved to the ECMO cart, a whirlwind of plans had to be completed before leaving for San Antonio.

"We are just blessed," Stephanie said. "It is a major miracle that he is even alive. We are just saying our prayers that everything will go well on the flight back to San Antonio."

At about 7:30 p.m. Stuart

Parker and the ECMO team left Puerto Rico.

Despite most of the ECMO team working without sleep for more than 30 hours, it maintained a constant vigil over Stuart and the life-giving machines keeping him stable.

"It is blowing me away," Lieutenant Parker said. "My particular job in the Coast Guard is a search and rescue controller -- being on the other end of the stick and providing assistance and rescue where needed to people in life-threatening events. To be on the receiving end, particularly from another branch like the Air Force, is truly amazing. I can't be thankful enough. My family is very grateful and indebted to the Air Force."

"I am very thankful and grateful that as a joint force, we look after one another," he said.

The Parkers watched as the Airmen loaded Stuart into an ambulance headed for the Wilford Hall NICU, where he continues to improve each day.

"He is truly a miracle son. Hopefully one day we'll be able to make him proud to say that the military saved his life," Lieutenant Parker said.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO BY GREG ALLEN

### ***Pet of the Week***

This young male Welsh Terrier is full of energy and will provide great companionship for a family. For information on him or other available pets, call the Family Support Center at 784-4228.

■ Continued from page 1

### VA seminars

A VA seminar is Tuesday at the Family Service Center. John Fondrick, Veteran's Affairs representative, will discuss the differences between the medical evaluation board and a VA claim from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Veterans can have their medical records reviewed and start a claim with the VA from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and then attend a question and answer period about benefits, 11 a.m. to noon.

For more information about any of the seminars or to register, call the Family Support Center at 784-4228.

### Airman's Attic

The Airman's Attic is open 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Staff Sergeants and below and their dependents are eligible to shop.

### Right Start

Right Start is 7:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday at the Landing. All personnel who recently arrived, except those at the First Term Airmen Center, need to attend Right Start.

For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 784-4228.

### Homeschool families

The Cannon homeschool community meets at 1 p.m. on August 4 at the base library. The meeting is open to all Cannon families interested in homeschooling their children.





## FEATURE

# Airmen stay in spiritual shape in combat zone

By Lt. Col. Bob Thompson  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR FORCE BASE, Iraq – When Airmen deploy to combat, they expect a mission-focused environment.

Without the daily demands of home life and the distractions of fast-paced America, many use their limited spare time to develop themselves in new ways.

“Some people get in shape at the gym,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Jose Tate, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Chaplain Services. “Some say they want to get in shape spiritually.”

For people seeking this kind of growth, chaplains provide the services, counseling and sometimes just a

friendly ear for those who want to talk.

“First and foremost, we provide our Airmen the opportunity to freely exercise their religions,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Conrado Navarro. “We give them a place and a way to worship according to their faith. We respect and honor Airmen; we don’t force views on anybody.”

“Our goal is to be inclusive, not exclusive,” Chaplain Tate said. “We lead religious tolerance. I’m aware of what others believe, and we’re trained to serve other religions in a way that is acceptable to them.”

Finding free time can be a challenge at the base, located about 42 miles north of Baghdad. The 332 AEW is the only Air Force wing in Iraq. It runs the busiest aerial port

and single runway in the Department of Defense. The base is the military medical hub with the busiest hospital in theater and the only contingency aeromedical staging facility for getting wounded out of Iraq.

“We get the worst wounded here,” said Chaplain (Maj.) James Decker. “They come here because our medical folks are the best. This mission touches not only the staff and patients, but also many off-duty Airmen who volunteer throughout the hospital.”

Because of the wing’s medical mission, four of the six chaplains assigned here have special training for supporting hospital workers and ministering to wounded people.

“We are doing everything at a higher level than what we do back

home,” said Chaplain (Maj.) Janis Dashner, who specializes in hospital support. “It’s exhausting, but you know that you’re really using your talents to the best of your ability. Like the doctors, nurses and medics, it’s what you’ve been called to do when the need is great.”

While working a minimum 12-hour shift, which often goes much longer, Chaplain Dashner said she spends an average of at least nine hours just conversing with the staff and patients. She said subjects range from light-hearted joking to “really heavy topics.”

However, her primary focus is attending to those with critical injuries.

Hurt by an improvised explosive device, a dying 4-year-old Iraqi boy and his father were comforted by Chaplain Dashner as she read the Muslim prayers for those who are dying.

“Some people ask me if it bothers me to pray in someone else’s tradition,” Chaplain Dashner said. “I tell them it’s not about me. It’s for the one who is dying.”

According to hospital records, if a wounded person can make it to the Air Force Theater Hospital, they have a 96 percent chance of surviving their injuries. Chaplain Dashner said this impressive record makes it that much harder when a patient doesn’t recover. During one night’s shift, she ministered to a U.S. Soldier dying from internal injuries. The chaplain said she and a couple of the nurses cried outside after the Soldier passed away. “One of the nurses said to me, ‘If you’re not emotionally moved by the situation, then you’re not in touch with what is going on,’” Chaplain Dashner said.

“This is my fifth deployment. Here, your ministry is magnified. What you do is so much more intense. It seems like everyone’s faith is more open here, they seek their own faith,” she said.

“There are times in combat when life gets reduced to simple moments, like holding a patient’s hand,” Chaplain Navarro said. “Being able to do that ministry in this environment – that’s what we’re here for. We serve all.”



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KERRY SOLAN-JOHNSON

Chaplain (Capt.) Jose Tate speaks to an Airman at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq, on July 14. Chaplains support the hospital’s patients, staff and many off-duty Airmen who volunteer there. The chaplain is assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.





## FEATURE



PHOTO BY AIRMAN FIRST CLASS NATHAN LIP

Airman 1st Class Kara Kidder sets out water in the passenger terminal at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, on July 25. She was assisting American citizens who had stopped at Incirlik on their way to the United States. Airman Kidder is with the 728th Air Mobility Squadron.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN KELLY FLYNN

Senior Airman Tianna Milagro offers candy to children arriving at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, on July 24. The children are among the Americans who left Lebanon and were transiting Turkey on their way to the United States. Airman Milagro is assigned to the 39th Air Base Wing.

## Incirlik Airmen marshal forces as hundreds transit base

by Capt. S.J. Brown  
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey – Airmen at the 728th Air Mobility Squadron passenger terminal are used to large crowds of people waiting to board an aircraft. They are used to endless piles of paperwork, luggage details and occasional irritable customers. Those are the things they are used to, but they live for events like those that happened July 25.

They began the process of expediting people leaving Lebanon by loading the first contracted plane with 272 people and more than 8,010 pounds of luggage.

“Imagine what they left behind if that is all they brought,” said Master Sgt. Chris Pierce, passenger terminal supervisor. “Imagine being told you needed to leave and having to pack your entire life in a suitcase. We have more than 8,000 pounds of peoples’ lives waiting to be loaded on that plane right now. It’s surreal.”

“We are used to dealing with a lot of people,” said Airman 1st Class Robert Gilligan, passenger service agent. “This really isn’t that much different. Sure, there are some differences like they don’t have luggage tags for their bags and we aren’t issuing them tickets, but other than that, we process them though the same way we would people traveling on the Patriot Express.”

All passengers are expected to put their luggage through security screens and every person is expected to walk through the security gate. There is no special

treatment because the safety of everyone is at stake, said Airman Gilligan, whose experience includes transporting Iraqi voters in 2005.

“These are people in emotional stress, they are tired, children are exhausted,” said Airman Gilligan, one of 28 passenger service agents here. “We just want to make their transition as smooth as possible.”

Along with the 28 agents, 30 security forces patrolmen and countless volunteers supported the transit. Airmen performed a variety of tasks and jobs – some were luggage handlers, some were helping with security, some were even helping the concessionaire with food and beverage deliveries.

“It feels wonderful to be able to help and to get people to a safe place,” Airman Gilligan said. “Most of us are either on our day off volunteering or have pulled a longer than normal shift just to help.”

“Well, we didn’t get enough sleep, but we are very happy to be here because it is safe and we are going (home),” said John Ayoub, who was traveling with his wife, Leila, daughter-in-law, Mirielle, and grandson, John Jr., to stay with his sons in Maryland. “We really thank the U.S. and the Air Force for taking care of us and for all the trouble they went through to get us here and on a plane.”

The chartered aircraft took the people to Baltimore-Washington International Airport where they will catch connecting flights to awaiting friends and relatives. But until the plane left, they waited. There were plenty of volunteers to help ensure there was ample water, clean and stock restroom facilities, and answer people’s questions. There were even 80 cases

of free Girl Scout cookies for snacking.

“We are all pulling some long hours and hard work,” Sergeant Pierce said. “But no one is complaining. As a tenant unit here, we appreciate the fact that so many 39th Air Base Wing personnel are helping us with passenger processing and safety. Team Incirlik really is a small base with a big heart working together to help someone else.”



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. BOB HERRON

Maj. Matthew Hanson talks with an American citizen from Lebanon at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, July 21. Major Hanson is with the 39th Medical Group.





THE LIGHTER SIDE

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ANSWERS TO JULY 21 PUZZLE







# Voting program pulling out all the stops for mid-term elections

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Federal Voting Assistance Program office is pulling out the stops to ensure all servicemembers and their families who wish to can vote. Polli Brunelli, the program's chief, said the program has learned from experience and has put in place a system to make it relatively painless for servicemembers and their families to vote in 2006 mid-term elections.

And, she added, servicemembers and their families want to vote. They generally vote in greater percentage than the general population, Ms. Brunelli said. She also stressed that these votes count. Absentee ballots decided a number of elections in 2004.

"Election officials count every absentee ballot," she said.

The program covers not only military personnel, but also DOD civilians and DOD contractors. It depends on dedicated officers and noncommissioned officers at unit level. Each unit has a voting assistance officer, and they are the primary points of contact for servicemembers casting absentee ballots.

A number of changes are being implemented in this election cycle. Some states will now send ballots to requesters via e-mail. Others will fax the ballots. Each state is responsible for voting by its citizens, so the laws and programs offered vary from state to

state.

Other changes include a revised Federal Postcard Application form.

"It's bigger and better and easier to read," Ms. Brunelli said. "We have several blocks on there for (voters) to put alternative addresses if they are on the move. There is also a place to put their e-mail address. This is very important, because local election officials want to be able to communicate to voters."

This is particularly helpful for reserve-component personnel called to active duty. For instance, a Minnesota National Guardsman may go through training in Mississippi before deploying. The Guardsman can put the alternative address on the request for the ballot.

Ms. Brunelli's office is working with the U.S. Postal Service to ensure expedited mail service for ballots. This started in 2004, and they had great success with it, she said.

Ballots will arrive to servicemembers in September or October. To be sure votes arrive on time, Ms. Brunelli is telling servicemembers to mail in their voted ballots the week of Oct. 8 to 14.

Ms. Brunelli said the biggest problem the program confronts is outdated addresses. Folks who have moved since the 2004 election need to submit an updated federal postcard application.

If all things work perfectly, and they usually do, she said, servicemembers will receive their ballots

from local election official and return them without a hitch. But problems can happen: the address is wrong; the mail can't get to an isolated area in a timely manner; and so on. In such cases, servicemembers can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

"It doesn't matter what ballot you get ... vote it," Ms. Brunelli said. "If the state ballot arrives after (submitting a write-in ballot), (you) should vote that, too. Local election officials will sort that out at their end."



For information:  
[www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov)

AIR FORCE GRAPHIC



## CANNON AIR FORCE BASE CHAPEL

### CATHOLIC

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday mornings.

Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass 12:05 p.m.

M,W,F

### PROTESTANT

#### Sunday Services (Summer Schedule)

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Combined Service 11 a.m.

Vacation Bible School (July 31 – Aug. 4) 9 a.m. - noon  
at the base chapel. Buses will provide transportation  
from Chavez West, Clovis 801, Portales 801 and  
base housing to pick up children who need trans-  
portation.

Individuals interested in volunteering should contact  
their first sergeant.

For more information, call 784-2507.

## At the Movies

The Cannon Movie Theater is located on the corner of Torch and D.L. Ingram.  
Movie prices are \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children and \$1 for all viewers on Thursdays.

### The Lake House

Today and Saturday at 7 p.m.

**Description:** An independent-minded doctor who once occupied an unusual lake-side home, begins exchanging love letters with its newest resident, a frustrated architect. They discover they're actually living two years apart, and must try to unravel the mystery behind their romance before it's too late.

**PG** – Some language and a disturbing image

**Running time:** 98 min.

### Garfield A Tail of Two Kitties

Saturday at 1 and 4 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m.

**Description:** When Garfield follows his owner, Jon Arbuckle, to England, the U.K. may never recover, as Garfield is mistaken for a look-alike regal cat who has inherited a castle.

**PG** – Some off-color elements

**Running time:** 80 minutes

### Nacho Libre

Sunday at 7 p.m.

**Description:** Nacho doesn't fit in as a cook, though he cares deeply for the orphans he feeds. He is struck by the idea to earn money as a Lucha Libre wrestler and discovers he has a talent for wrestling.

**PG** – Some rough action and crude humor, including dialogue

**Running time:** 91 minutes



## SPORTS SHORTS



### Cannon Lanes

**Family Bowl-a-Rama\*** – 6-9 p.m., July 28. Cost is \$12 per lane to bowl two hours with up to six family members. The price includes shoes and one pitcher of soda. Lanes must be assigned between 6 to 7 p.m.

#### Through Aug 15

**Mondays** – Coca-Cola Bowling from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$1.50 per game. Win a two liter bottle of Coke with a strike on a red head pin. Limit one win per game. *No endorsement intended.*

**Thursdays and Fridays** – Children's Hour – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first child, 12 or under, bowls free when the parent bowls at regular price. The second child bowls for \$1 per game and each additional child bowls for 50 cents per game.

(\*Call 784-2280 regarding children under 3 years of age)

### Whispering Winds Golf Course

**Monday Night Scrambles** – Two-person teams and players may select their partners. Sign up by 3 p.m.

**Senior Days** – Senior golfers 50 years and older will receive \$2 off daily green fees and 50 percent off electric carts Monday and Tuesday.

**Retiree Wednesdays** – Golfers with a retired military ID card will receive \$2 off daily green fees and 50 percent off electric carts on Wednesdays.

**Member First discounts** – 10 percent discount off annual, quarterly and monthly greens fees. Half off club rentals. \$2 off cart rental for 18 holes.

### Outdoor Recreation

**Boater Safety Course** – Aug. 11 at Fort Sumner Lake. This course is

mandatory before renting powered watercraft from Outdoor Recreation.

The cost is \$20 per person.

For more information, call 784-2773.

**Family Boating Play Day** – Aug. 19 at Ute Lake State Park. For \$20 enjoy a day on the lake, ski boating, swimming, water skiing, wake boarding or just relaxing.

The price includes transportation, a barbecue picnic lunch, drinks and snacks. Sign up deadline is Aug. 10. Depart at 7:30 a.m. and return at 9 p.m.

This is for adults and children three years old and older.

For more information, call 784-2773.

**New Mexico Hot Springs Hike and Bike** – Aug. 26 and 27. The cost is \$80 per person. Soak and enjoy McCauley Hot Springs after a hike. Return to the campground and enjoy a barbecue-style dinner. On the second day, bike the San Antonio Trail and soak in the San Antonio Hot Springs.

Sign-up deadline is Aug. 21 and includes transportation, three meals, overnight camping and all gear and bicycles for those who need one.

This is for adults and children 12 years old and older.

For more information, call 784-2773.

**Rock Climbing weekend** – Sept. 9 and 10. The cost is \$80 per person. This adventure is for beginner and experienced climbers and provides initial climb and bouldering training or technique brush up. Training is at Kirtland Air Force Base's indoor climbing area. The second day will include several climbing stations.

Sign-up deadline is Sept. 4 and includes transportation, lesson instructions, three meals and a camping area.

This is for adults and children 12 years old and older.

For more information, call 784-2773.